

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8459

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, MA, US

SUBJECT: GDRM EXPELS EMBASSY PERSONNEL

REF: TANANARIVE 1509

1. BANNER HEADLINE OF MADAGASCAR MATIN (TANANARIVE'S DAILY NEWSPAPER) SEPTEMBER 24, "EXPULSION OF TWO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS," WAS FOLLOWED BY BRIEF SUMMATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS AT HIS SEPT 23 PRESS CONFERENCE. ARTICLE CONCERNING PRESS CONFERENCE ITSELF ENTITLED, "IMPERIALISM IS ENEMY NO. 1," RANKED SECOND IN IMPORTANCE TO ARTICLE ON EXPULSION AND BOTH COMPLETELY DOMINATED LOWER PAGE ONE REPORT OF WELL-HERALDED ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS FOR NEXT WEEK'S DJOUTCHE SEMINAR IN TANANARIVE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAGE ONE ARTICLE CONCERNING EXPULSION:

"THE AUTHORITIES DECIDED YESTERDAY TO EXPEL TWO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS FOR INTERFERENCE IN THE ACTIVITIES CONCERNING A PARTIAL STRIKE AT THE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. MR. JUSTIN RAKOTONIAINA,
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PRIME MINISTER, WHO HIMSELF ANNOUNCED THIS

DECISION IN THE COURSE OF A PRESS CONFERENCE, SPECIFIED THAT IT CONCERNED CHARLES ALLEN, RECORDS CLERK AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND DAVID BENNETT, SECOND SECRETARY.

"WE HAVE DECIDED TO EXPEL THEM FROM MADAGASCAR THIS EVENING AND THEY SHOULD BE TAKING A FLIGHT TONIGHT.' HE ACCUSED THE DIPLOMATS OF HAVING INVITED STRIKING STUDENTS TO THEIR HOMES IN ORDER 'TO TALK ABOUT THE BETTERMENT OF MADAGASCAR,' AND FOR HAVING FURNISHED CARS TO THE STUDENTS TO HELP THEM IN THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE PRIME MINISTER LET IT BE KNOWN THAT SOME OF THE STUDENTS WERE INTERROGATED BY THE POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AFFAIR AND THAT THE INQUIRY WHICH HAD JUST BEGUN IS CONTINUING."

3. ENTIRE NEWS CONFERENCE WAS BROADCAST AND TELECAST AND WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EXPULSIONS, BUT 90 PERCENT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS DEVOTED TO PRIME MINISTER'S ASSESSMENT OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S 44 DAYS IN OFFICE.

4. ALLEN AND BENNETT DEPARTED AT 7:40 P.M. SEPT 23 ON EAST AFRICA FLIGHT TO NAIROBI. THERE WERE NO DIFFICULTIES AT AIRPORT, ALTHOUGH THEIR BAGGAGE WAS GIVEN THOROUGH BUT POLITE CHECK. TWO POLICEMEN ESCORTED THEM FROM MOMENT THEY ENTERED TRANSIT AREA, BUT THEY WERE COURTEOUS AND THERE WAS NO HARASSMENT. SHEINBAUM

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